

IN THE CLAIMS:

19. **(Currently Amended)** A method for binding nucleic acids to a surface, the method comprising:
providing a mixture comprising nucleic acids and a charged material comprising a xanthine compound; and
contacting the mixture and a surface to produce a bound material, wherein the bound material comprises nucleic acids covalently bonded to the surface.
20. Please cancel claim 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.
21. Please cancel claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.
22. Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.
23. Please cancel claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.
24. Please cancel claim 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.
25. Please cancel claim 25 without prejudice or disclaimer.
26. The method of claim 19, wherein the surface consists essentially of silica.
27. The method of claim 19, wherein the surface consists of silica.
28. The method of claim 19, further comprising removing the charged material after the contacting step.

CONCLUSION

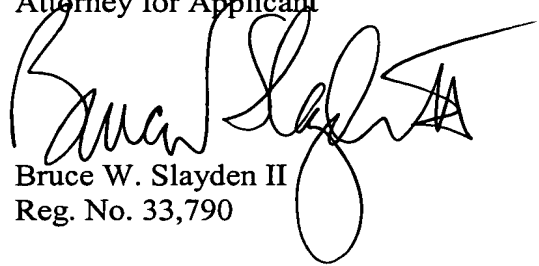
Applicant has now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for examination and allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant believes no fee is due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2606.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicant


Bruce W. Slayden II
Reg. No. 33,790

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Baker Botts L.L.P.
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002-4995
512.322.2606
512.322.8306 (fax)

Date: 4/28/03